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Neo-JMB man wanted Arakan connection

Say detectives about bomb-expert militant

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Kawsar Hossain, an explosive expert of the IS inspired militant outfit Neo-JMB, tried to build a militant den in the hilly area of Bandarban to establish links with militants in nearby Myanmar's Arakan.

He also wanted to use the den to recruit new operatives and train them on making Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Kawsar, also known as Major Osama in the banned organisation, used to impart the training both in-person and online, an official of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit said yesterday after the arrest of Osama and another top Neo-JMB member on Sunday.

Based on information gleaned from the two the CTTC busted two Neo-JMB hideouts and recovered IEDs and bomb-making materials from there the same day.

"Around a year ago, Osama had changed his mind and decided to go to Syria," a CTTC official told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

To execute his plan, he first went to Khulna from Bandarban along with some of his accomplices and learnt how to drive speedboats and launches.

Led by Osama, a section of Neo-JMB operatives also made money through online banking fraud and robbing battery-run three-wheelers, known as easy bikes.

Although it is a well-known strategy of mainstream JMB

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Expatriate workers, waiting to get vaccinated, stand in a long queue in front of the capital's Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. The line went as far as the Central Shaheed Minar. The photo was taken around noon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Khaleda Zia registered for vaccine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has registered for the Covid-19 vaccine on the Shurokha app, launched by the government for the vaccination drive that began in February.

"She registered on July 8 but did not get the date of vaccination yet. She will be vaccinated at Sheikh Russel National Gastroenterology Institute and Hospital," AZM Zahid Hossain, Khaleda's personal physician and BNP vice chairman, told The Daily Star.

Khaleda tested positive for Covid on April 11 and was admitted to Evercare Hospital on April 27.

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'They should look at their own face in the mirror'

Says Momen about the UK in response to a human rights, democracy report

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has suggested that the UK pay attention to its own position before advising others on human rights and democracy.

"They should look at their own face in the mirror before advising others. If they cannot improve their own situation, they should stop this practice," he said in response to queries from reporters at his ministry yesterday about UK's Human Rights and Democracy Report 2020.

According to the report released last Thursday, there was no overall improvement in the human rights situation in Bangladesh in 2020.

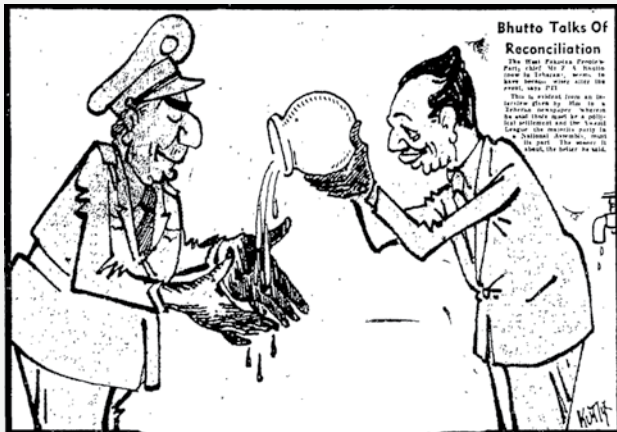
It noted concerns over further restrictions on the freedom of expression, including the use of the Digital Security Act, to muzzle criticism of the government's Covid-19 response, and continued violence against women and girls.

The report also said that in March 2020, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was released from prison following a government

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'It was like the morning after a nuclear attack'



All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand ... Source: Hindustan Standard, July 14, 1971.

JULY 13, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

EXCERPTS FROM WORLD BANK GROUP'S REPORT

The New York Times today published excerpts from a report by a mission of the World Bank that visited East Pakistan in June, 1971 and from a report on a survey of the western area of Bangladesh by Hendrik van der Heijden, an economist and member of the mission.

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BOOSTING PROTECTION

Thailand to mix Sinovac, Astra shots

UK PM eases Covid curbs; Covax to receive 110m Chinese doses

AGENCIES

Thailand will use AstraZeneca Plc's Covid-19 vaccine as a second dose for those who received Sinovac's shot as their first dose in a bid to increase protection, it said yesterday.

The move is the first publicly announced mix-and-match of a Chinese vaccine and a Western-developed shot, as a new preliminary Thai study raised doubts about the longer-term protection of the two-dose course Sinovac vaccine.

"This is to improve protection against the Delta variant and build a high level of immunity against the disease," Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul told reporters, adding that the

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'Super Mario' cartridge sold for record \$1.5m



AFP, Washington

A cartridge of Nintendo's classic video game "Super Mario 64" set a world record Sunday, selling at auction for \$1.56 million.

The sale, the first ever of a game cartridge to surpass \$1 million, came just two days after a sealed copy of "The Legend of Zelda" -- made for the old Nintendo NES console -- sold for a then-record of \$870,000.

Dallas-based Heritage Auctions, which handled both sales, has not identified the buyers. Before

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Land grabbers beat up journo, video goes viral

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A journalist of a local newspaper was assaulted by land grabbers in Barakhata area of Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila on Sunday, police said.

A video clip where the journalist, Selim Shamrat, 25, is seen being beaten up mercilessly has gone viral on social media. A case was filed over the incident with Hatibandha Police Station last night, said Ershadul Alam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Selim was attacked when he went to Barakhata area around 5:00pm on Sunday to gather information about a land grabbing incident. Alleged land grabbers Ali Reza Badal, 50, and his younger brother Tajjul Islam Mukut, 45, along with their men, attacked him there, said the OC, quoting locals.

At one point, the

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BCL leader stabbed dead in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A Chhatra League leader was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals over an internal feud in Gaibandha town on Sunday night.

The victim, Ashiqur Rahman Raki, 28, of Moddo-Kanchipara village of Gaibandha's Fulchhari upazila, was the general secretary of the upazila unit BCL, according to district BCL sources.

Police said the assailants attacked Ashiqur over previous enmity near Halim Bidi factory in

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People have set up a cattle market in the capital's Bangla Motor area ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, despite government restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

VACCINE CO-PRODUCTION China waits for Bangladesh's go ahead

Says Chinese envoy; Sinopharm, Sinovac are all set

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China is waiting for the nod from the Bangladesh government to start co-production of Covid-19 vaccines in the country.

"For co-producing [of vaccines in Bangladesh], the Chinese side is ready. Sinopharm is ready, Sinovac is ready... you have very modern, very good facilities for co-production," Hualong Yan, the Chinese embassy's deputy chief of mission, said yesterday in response to a question from The Daily Star at a webinar.

"Now we are waiting for the signal from the Bangladesh government. Everything is ready, China is ready," he said at the webinar titled "Centenary of Chinese Communist Party", organised by the Association of Bangladesh-China Alumni.

In a Facebook post on July 6, Hualong said Chinese vaccine companies were working with Bangladeshi partners for future vaccine co-producing in Bangladesh.

China has so far provided vaccines to nearly 100 countries, and will provide the first batch of 10 million doses to global vaccine alliance Covax, he added.

China gifted 1.1 million Sinopharm vaccines and, under a purchase agreement, supplied two million Sinopharm jabs to Bangladesh early July.

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 13

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION